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<http://manga-sketchbook.org>

DEAD

A man who has lost his memory...

A mysterious, angelic girl who literally appears out of nowhere... A group of ruthless gangsters, dressed to kill... There's more to our strange and beautiful world than what we experience through our senses, something that Shirou, a scrappy yet loveable loner, is learning the hard way. When his memory is suddenly erased and his friends are brutally murdered, Shirou is forced to piece together clues to solve a shocking and spectacular puzzle, where paranoia assumes an air of calm rationality and the line between tormenter and prey is often blurred. As Shirou struggles to remain one step ahead of his relentless pursuers, he comes to a shocking revelation that resides somewhere on the surface of reality. From Shohei Manabe, creator of *Smuggler*, comes **a dark, hyperkinetic tale of a man losing his place in the world.**

END

+



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UPC



DEAD END™

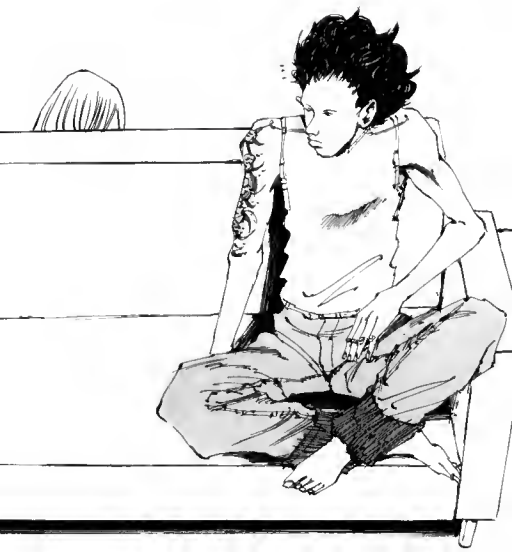
SHOHEI MANABE

01



DEAD END

ジエンド



DEAD END

by

SHOHEI MANABE



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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HEAD

PART 1
LUCY









YOU
CAME
CRASHIN'
OUTTA
THE SKY.



THERE
YOU WERE.
TOTALLY
NAKED



IT
WAS
UN-
REAL!



SERIOUSLY?
YOU OKAY?



I
HAVE A
REALLY
BAD
STOMACH
ACHE.



YOU
WANT
SOMETHIN'
TO EAT?

YOU
GOTTA BE
STARVIN'.

SIZZLE





HOW
MUCH
DOES IT
HURT?

THINK
I GOT
SOME
ANT-
ACIDS
SOME-
WHERE



NO, IT
DOESN'T
FEEL LIKE
IT.



?



THROB

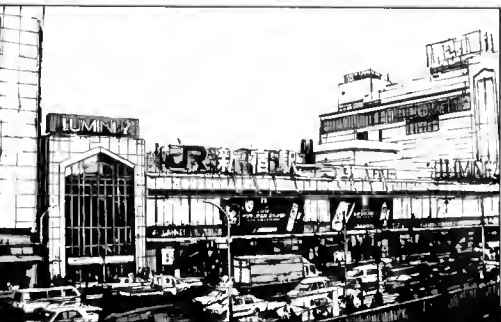


IT'S
TEN
TIMES
WORSE
THAN
THAT.



OWW!









LISTEN,
AREN'T YOU A
LITTLE EM-
BARRASSED?

LOOK!
A CUTE
DOG!



WHAT
ABOUT YOU?
A *SANE* PERSON
WOULD'VE
TAKEN ME
TO THE
POLICE.

BUT
YOU
DIDN'T.



ARE YOU
NUTS OR
SOME-
THING?



...YOU
TOTALLY
TURN ME
ON!

LOOK, IF
I FOUND A
BRIEFCASE
FULL OF
BLOODY
MONEY, I
WOULDN'T
TURN IT
IN.

BE-
SIDES...







LET'S
HEAD FOR
THE PARK.



IT'S
WAY
CROWDED
HERE

WHOA.



...THE
FURTHER
IN YOU
GO

THERE'S
FEWER
PEOPLE...



HUH?



IT'S PERFECT.

I'VE NEVER
FELT THIS
GOOD MY
WHOLE LIFE.



MORE
THAN
NICE



THIS IS
ACTUALLY

...
PRETTY
NICE.

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



LOOK AT
'EM TAKE
OFF!



HEH HEH!
THERE'S
SO MANY
OF 'EM.



OH!



SWEET
PIGEONS.



she from?

WHAT
THE--?





AM I...

...FRIGHTENING
YOU?



NO.



WE'RE
BOUND TO
EACH OTHER
TO OUR
EARTHLY
SENSES...

...AND
THAT'S HOW
WE IMPRISON
OUR EXPERIENCE
OF THIS
WORLD.



THERE'S
SO MUCH
MORE TO
THIS
UNIVERSE

...THAN
WHAT YOU
ALLOW
YOURSELF
TO FEEL.



WHAT'S
WITH ALL
THE
PIGEONS
OVER
THERE?

IT'S
FREAKY,
AIN'T
IT?

HEY!

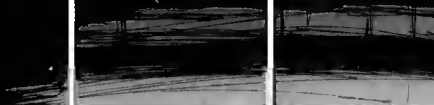
IT'S
DEFINITELY
WAY DARK
IN HERE.

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
YOU.

WHERE'D
YOU GO?

AND
IT'S DAMP
AND COLD.

NOT ONE BIT.





I
ALREADY
TOLD YOU.
YOU
CAN'T!

MY BOSS
WILL GET
PISSED!



I'M COMING
WITH YOU!



YOUR
FEET!

OUCH.



THIS
IS KINDA
FUN!

IT'S
LIKE
WALK-
ING ON
STILTS.



I'LL BE
HOME
TONIGHT.

I
REAL-
LY
DO
WISH

...I COULD
HANG OUT
HERE WITH
YOU, BUT
THEN WHO'D
PAY FOR
ALL YOUR
CLOTHES?

THEY
DIDN'T
COME
CHEAP,
YOU
KNOW.

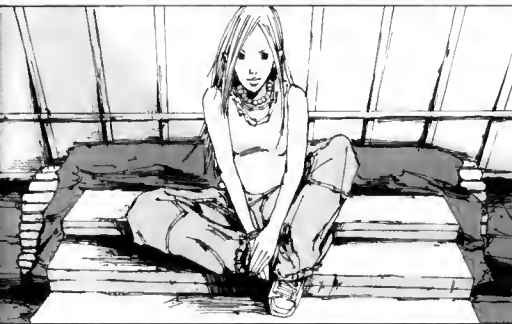


P
A
S
S





...THE
DAWN
COULD
BE SO
BEAUTIFUL.















SHIROU,
YOU HAVE
A TATTOO?



WUZ
UP
BABY?



PLEASED
TO MEET
YOU.



I DON'T
TATTOO
JUST FOR
SHITS AND
GIGGLES.

WHAT I
ETCHED
ON YOUR
BODY...

...IS
PROOF
THAT
YOU'RE
ALIVE.



...THIS?

OH...



YOU GOT
IT WRONG,
SHIROU.



THEN THIS
JACKASS
TATTOOED
ME FOR
LAUGHS.

ONE NIGHT,
I GOT WAY
DRUNK AND
PASSED
OUT.









SHIROW.

DO YOU
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS
BESIDES
YOUR
NEIGHBORS
HERE?



SO
THIS
IS IT,
HUH?



NOPE.
THIS IS ALL
OF 'EM.

GUESS I
DON'T LIKE
HAVIN' MANY
FRIENDS.







IT'S THE
STICKY
RICE! HE'S
CHOKIN'
ON IT!

WHAT'S
WRONG
OLD MAN?









...I'M *CRAZY*
ABOUT HER.



BUT
AFTER I
MET LUCY,
IT'S LIKE...

IT WAS
THE SAME
RIDICULOUS
ROUTINE DAY
AFTER DAY

MY
LIFE HAD
GOTTEN
SO
BORING



...EVEN
THE
SLIGHTEST
THINGS
MAKE ME
HAPPY.



I FELT
OUT OF
PLACE
LIFE WAS
MEANINGLESS



THAT'S
A SCARY
THOUGHT.



I FEEL
LIKE IF I
KNEW...

...IT
WOULD
BREAK THE
SPELL AND
SHE'D
VANISH.



SO
WHAT HER
STORY
IS OR
WHATEVER
DON'T EVEN
MATTER

I DON'T
WANNA
ASK. DON'T
EVEN
WANNA
KNOW



I NEVER
FELT THAT
WITH
ANYBODY
BEFORE.



THAT
CHICK'S
BAD NEWS.

SHE'S
NOTHING
BUT TROUBLE.
I CAN
FEEL IT.



IT'S RIGHT
UNDER YOUR
NOSE, AND
YOU CAN'T
SEE IT.



...WHEN YOU
SAID "THERE'S
MORE TO THIS
UNIVERSE THAN
WHAT WE ALLOW
OURSELVES
TO FEEL"?

LUCY,
WHAT'D
YOU
MEAN.

YOU ONLY
ACCEPT THINGS
AS REAL IF THEY
CAN BE CONFIRMED
THROUGH YOUR
FIVE SENSES.

THAT
LEAVES
SO MUCH
THAT YOU
WILL NEVER
KNOW.

I MEANT
THAT HUMANS
ONLY RECEIVE
INFORMATION
FROM THE
REALM OF THE
KNOWABLE.

JUST
BECAUSE
SOMETHING
ISN'T PERCEP-
TIBLE THROUGH
YOUR SENSES
DOESN'T MEAN
IT DOESN'T
EXIST.



CONSUMING,
LIKE PIGS,
WHATEVER
THEIR SENSES
FEED THEM.

AT A
STARTLING
RATE, HUMANS
ARE BECOMING
SLAVES TO
THEIR SENSES.

WHAT
DO YOU
FEEL?

YOUR
SENSES
RECEIVE
INFORMATION
FROM ALL
AROUND YOU...
BUT NOT ALL OF
IT IS WORTH
ACTING ON!



TASTE.

SIGHT.

TOUCH.

SMELL.

SOUND.



THE WORLD
AROUND US...

...IS
COMPLEX
AND
WONDERFUL...

...IT'S
RIGHT UNDER
YOUR NOSE.

EVEN
THOUGH...

...IS DYING.

...BUT YOUR
ABILITY TO
UNDERSTAND
IT...



SHIROU



AND
LIVE
WITH
IT...

...EVEN
IF THE
TRUTH IS
UGLY, GET
ME?



FACIN'
THE TRUTH
IS SCARY,
MAN.

BUT,
SOONER
OR LATER,
YOU
GOTTA
DO IT.











WHAT
THE
HELL?



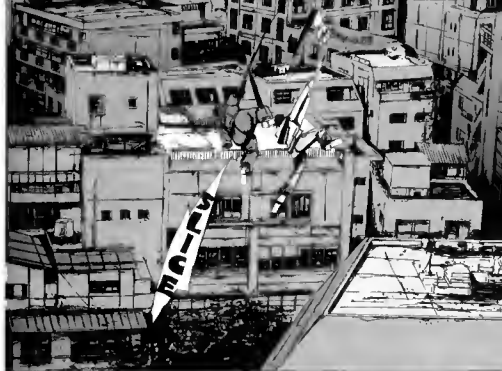
WHAT?

EVERY-
THING'S
FINE.

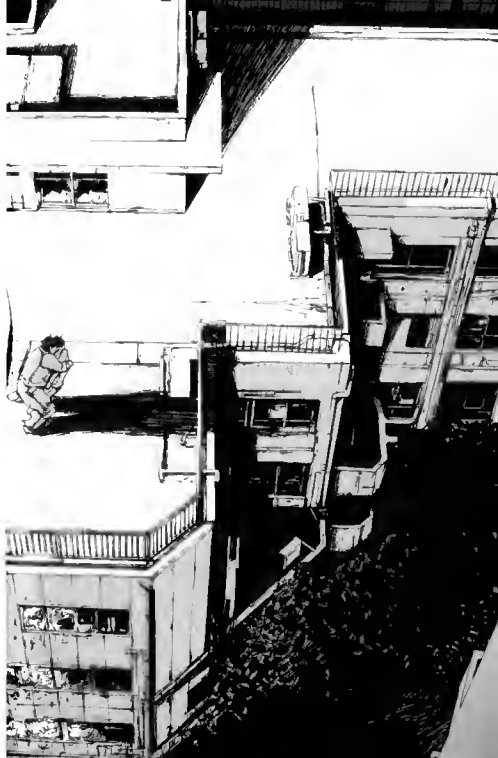
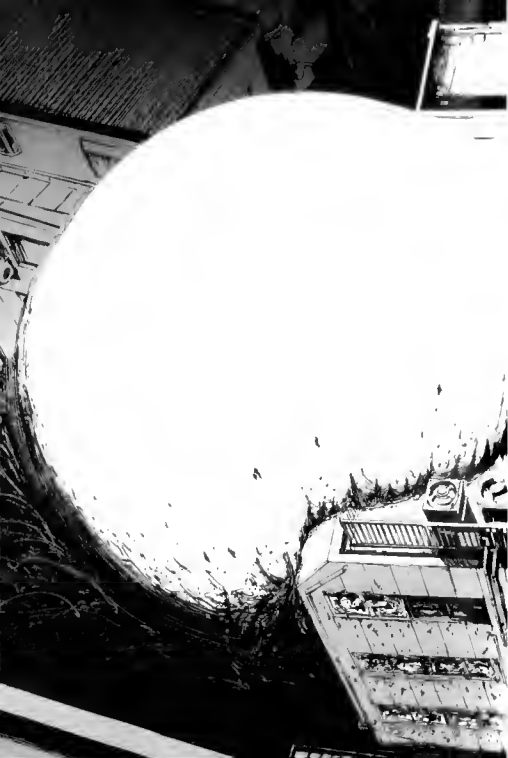














WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS?!
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

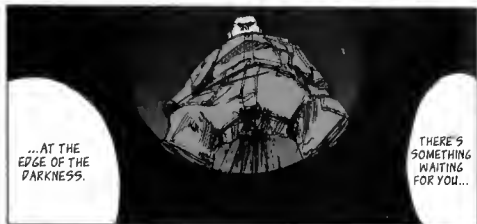


RUN!



NO TIME...
HURRY!!

PLEASE!!



...AT THE
EDGE OF THE
DARKNESS.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
WAITING
FOR YOU...





WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!



WHAT THE
HELL'S GOIN'
ON?!



SPLASH

SHIT!

SHIT!



WHAT
THE--?!

I
DIDN'T
EVEN
KNOW
THEIR
NAMES!



THEY...?!

WHO
WERE
THEY?!



THEY'RE
ALL
DEAD.

I FEEL
TOTALLY
NUMB.



FACIN'
THE TRUTH IS
SCARY, MAN.

BUT
SOONER
OR LATER
YOU GOTTA
FACE IT

EVEN IF
THE TRUTH
IS UGLY,
GET ME?

I DON'T SEE...

...DAYLIGHT
ANYWHERE!

OH, GOD...
WHAT'S THAT
SMELL? IT'S
HORRIFYING!

THE FLOW
OF WATER
AROUND ME.
IT'S ALL I
GOT NOW.

IT'S THE
ONLY THING
FAMILIAR TO
ME RIGHT
NOW.

HOW FAR
HAVE I RUN?
WHERE DOES
THIS TUNNEL
LEAD? GOT
NO CLUE.

I
DON'T
KNOW
A DAMN
THING.

WHAT IS
ALL THIS?

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?

BUT NOW,
IN THIS PITCH
BLACKNESS...

I USED
TO THINK
EVERYTHING
MADE SENSE.
NOTHING
SCARED
ME.

...TAKING
EVEN A SINGLE
STEP FORWARD
FILLS ME WITH
DREAD.



LUCY.

I HAVE
TO FIND YOU.



!

THE ... OF
THE WATER'S
GOTTEN FASTER.



I NEED
TO KNOW
YOU'RE ALL
RIGHT



RAIN IS...

RAIN?

...BAD
NEWS.



THE
RAIN'S
POURING
IN...

KODAK

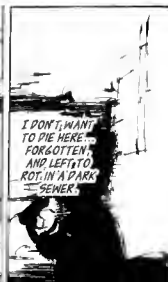


...AND
COLLECTING
DOWN HERE.



I'M A NOBODY...
TOO FOOLISH TO
MAKE MUCH OUT
OF LIFE

I'M AN IDIOT.



I DON'T WANT
TO DIE HERE.
FORGOTTEN,
AND LEFT TO
ROT IN A DARK
SEWER



NOBODY
KNOWS
I'M DOWN
HERE.
EVERY-
BODY'S
HAVIN' A
NORMAL
DAY UP
THERE.



IF THE
WATER KEEPS
POURING IN,
I'M GONNA
DROWN!







...AT
THE FUCKING
NIGHTMARE
THAT AWAITS
YOU!

ESPECIALLY
WHEN YOU
STARE
FACE-TO-
FACE...



DEAD END





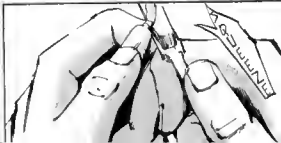
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PART 2 THE BEGINNING MAN







...I
ALWAYS
THINK
THE SAME
THOUGHT.



WHEN I
LOOK LONG
AND HARD
IN THE
MIRROR...



...REALLY MINE?

IS THIS
IDIOTIC FACE...



USUALLY THERE
ARE SO MANY
DISTRACTING
TEMPTATIONS.





I SHOULD
TURN THE DAMN
TV OFF.



Following
the fluke gas
explosion in
Shibuyaku
a few days
ago...

...a police
investigation
has been
initiated.



Up
next
on
the
news
...



BUT, IT'S
MY CONSTANT
'COMPANION.

IT'S A WINDOW
THAT LETS ME LOOK
AT THE HORRIBLE
WORLD OUTSIDE.







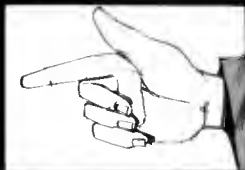


YOU'RE
BUDDIES WITH
THAT DUDE WHO
KILLED THE GUYS
IN MY APART-
MENT BUILDING.
AREN'T YOU?



PERHAPS.





TELL ME
WHAT'S
GOING
ON!



I'M NOT
GETTIN'
THIS



TELL
ME!

...NEVER EVEN
GOT PAST YOUR
HEAD, DID IT?

THE WATER
THAT YOU *THOUGHT*
WOULD BE YOUR
CERTAIN DEATH...



DROWNING
IN THE
DARKNESS...

...YOU
LOSE ALL
GRIP ON YOUR
PRIDE AND
COURAGE



YOU
SHOULD'VE
SEEN...

...HOW
HYSTERI-
CAL YOU
LOOKED





...YOUR
EVEN TINIER
LIFE WOULD'VE
ENDED

IN THIS
TINY WORLD...



WHO
THE
FUCK
ARE
YOU?

CHOO!

AA--

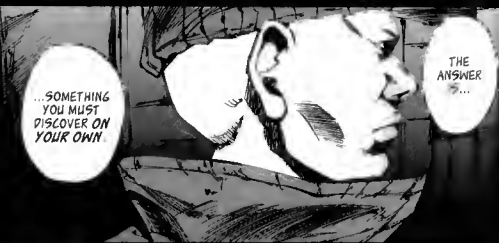


...THE
ANSWER
TO WHICH
...

...YOU'RE
NOT IN A
POSITION
TO BELIEVE.



YOU ASK
A SIMPLE
QUESTION
...



MY
APARTMENT!



DOOR'S OPEN!

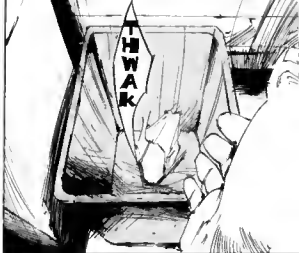


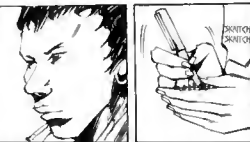




















IT'S JUST
WHAT THE
DOCTOR
ORDERED.
HUH?

I'M NOT
HOOKED ON
BOOZE...
BUT WORK
CAN BE
HELL.

AND
THERE'S
NOTHING
LIKE A
DRINK...TO
TAKE THE
EDGE
OFF.



Sigh...

JUST
LOOKING AT
EVERYBODY'S
MISERABLE
FACE GETS
ME CRAVING
A SHOT OF
WHISKEY



I'M
FED UP
WITH THE
HOSPITAL.



IT
DEFINITELY
SMOOTHES
THINGS
OVER



THANKS
FOR
SHARING

I
NEED
TO
TAKE A
PUMP.



YEAH,
ROUND
THE
CORNER



IS THE
TOILET
THAT
WAY?



HEY,
LUCY.

YAAAA
WNNN



I HATE IT
AND I HATE
EVERYBODY
THERE

I WANNA
QUIT MY JOB.

IN FACT,
I HATE
THIS WHOLE
GODDAMN
WORLD!!



YOU
HEARIN'
ME?!

HEY.





NOW I
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU MEANT
BY THAT LOOK.



IDLE
COMPLAINING...

...GETS YOU
NOWHERE.







WHEN DID HE--?!



A BAR'S
NO PLACE FOR
A GUN. DON'T
YA THINK?



...YOU
DON'T
HAPPEN
TO HAVE A
LIGHTER,
DO YA?

HEY...



'CAUSE
YOUR
DRINK WAS
POISONED.

IF YOU
ANSWER MY
QUESTION,
I'LL GIVE
YOU THE
ANTIDOTE.



WHY
NOT?



I DON'T
HAVE
TIME...

...TO
SHOOT
THE SHIT
WITH
YOU.



WHAT'RE
YOU
SAYING?



YOU'LL
NEED IT
MORE THAN
I WILL.



THE BAR
LOOKED FINE,
BUT **SOMETHING**
WASN'T RIGHT.

WALKIN'
IN HERE, I
HAD A FUNNY
FEELING.



...SWAPPED
MINE WITH
YOURS.

SO I...



IT LOOKS
LIKE ANY
OTHER
HARMLESS
BAR



**G
R
A
B**



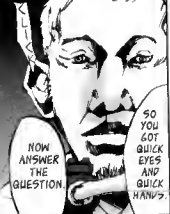
I GOTTA
WATCH MY STEP.
CALL IT **MALE**
INTUITION.

I'M NOT
AS STUPID AS I
LOOK. WHEN A GIRL
I JUST MET ASKS
ME OUT, I GET A
WARNING LIGHT
IN MY HEAD.



...BUT THE
BARTENDER
POURED
'EM...
FROM **TWO**
DIFFERENT
BOTTLES!

IT WAS
STARTIN'
TO GET
WEIRD WHEN
WE ORDERED
THE SAME
DRINK...





DON'T
MOVE!



AIM
ANYWHERE
EXCEPT THE
HEART AND
THE HEAD

UNDER-
STOOD



OH...
SHIT.



...ANY-
WHERE.



...KILLIN'
ME IS *NOT*
GONNA GET
YOU...

I THINK
IT'S FAIR
TO TELL
YOU
THAT...







WHO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE? THE
NEW SHERIFF
IN TOWN?

LOOK
AT YA!





I WAS
THIS CLOSE
TO GETTIN'
KILLED BACK
THERE.

SHUT IT!

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO SHOW UP
RIGHT AWAY
AFTER I CALL
YOU!



HUH?
I NEVER
KNEW
YOU
BEFORE

YOUR
MEMORY'S
DON'T
BEEN
ERASED

YOU
JUST
REMEM-
BER



WAS
SHE
TALKIN'
ABOUT
YOU?

THAT
NURSE
WAS ASKIN'
WHERE MY
FRIEND
WAS.

YOU
AND I
WERE
ONCE
FRIENDS.

BINGO.



THINGS
HAVE
GOTTEN
DANGER-
OUS



HEY!



WHAT?!

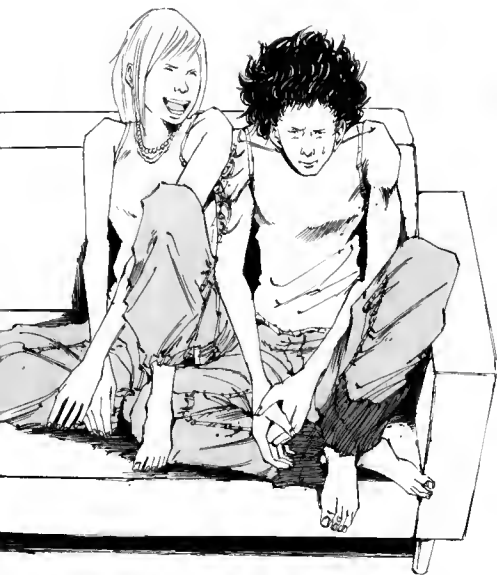


I
GET THE
FEELING...

...WE'RE
ALL ABOUT TO
HAVE A LITTLE
REUNION *VERY*
SOON



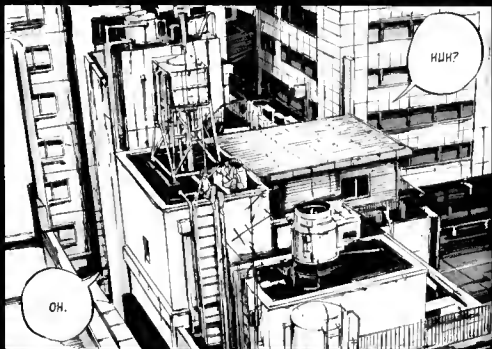
DEAD END





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THE
MOON.





YOU ASKED
FOR THIS.
YOU ASKED
TO FORGET
EVERY-
THING.

NOW
WHAT YOU
GOTTA DO IS
JUMP-START
YOUR MEMORY
SYNAPSES
ALL OVER
AGAIN.

IT'S NOT
TOTALLY GONE
IT'S MORE LIKE
AMNESIA

WHAT
DO YOU MEAN
MY MEMORY'S
BEEN ERASED?

I DON'T
GET YA.

YOU BETTER
HOPE YOU
REMEMBER
BEFORE IT'S
TOO LATE.

THEN YOU'LL
REMEMBER *WHAT*
YOU ARE.



NEITHER
ONE OF US...

I CAN
TELL YOU
ONE THING
FOR SURE.

.....



...HAS A
PLACE TO
CALL HOME
ANYMORE.



...WE NEVER
HAD ONE.

OR SHOULD
I SAY...



IF YOU
WANT TO LIVE,
YOU BETTER
START
LISTENIN'
TO ME.

BASED ON
WHAT'S JUST
TRANSPired, I
CONCLUDE THAT
WE'RE BEING
CHASED.

IN WHICH CASE,
WE WILL SOON
FIND OURSELVES
ATTACKED BY WHAT
APPEAR TO BE
MONSTERS.



I BETTER
WHAT?



...YOU'RE
GONNA GATHER
TOGETHER YOUR
SCATTERED
FRIENDS

IN THREE
DAYS...



BUT YOU'RE
GOING TO
ASSEMBLE THEM
YOURSELF

I'VE
PINPOINTED
THEIR
WHERE-
ABOUTS



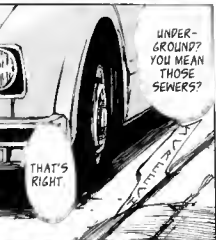
LIKE YOU,
YOUR
FRIENDS
HAVE LOST
THEIR
MEMORIES.

AND I'M NOT
SO SURE THAT
ALL OF THEM
ARE GONNA
WANT TO GET
TOGETHER



I WOULDN'T
ASK YOU IF
I COULD DO IT
MYSELF.

BASICALLY,
I'M NOT SO
GOOD AT
PERSUADING
PEOPLE.



UNDER-
GROUND?
YOU MEAN
THOSE
SEWERS?

THAT'S
RIGHT



YOU GOT
A PRETTY
BLEAK
ATTITUDE,
YOU KNOW
THAT?



THAT'S
WHY I TOOK
TO LIVING
UNDER-
GROUND.

OF
COURSE.



IT WAS QUIET,
AT LEAST.
NOTHING *EVER*
HAPPENED.



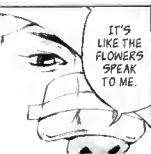
UNTIL
THE MOMENT
I MET YOU.



NOTHING
MUCH
HAPPENED
IN MY
WORLD,
EITHER.









BUT
I DON'T
RECOGNIZE
YOU.

I'M HERE
TO MEET
WITH AN
"ACQUAIN-
TANCE
FROM THE
PAST."



WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

WHAT A
NUTCASE.



THAT
MAKES BOTH
OF US.



HAVE
YOU NOTICED
STRANGE
SHIT GOIN' ON
AROUND YOU
LATELY?

I DON'T
EVEN PAY
ATTENTION
ANYMORE

SOMETHING
STRANGE
HAPPENS
EVERY DAY.



I HEAR YOU,
BRO.

BELIEVE
ME, THIS
IS PRETTY
WEIRD FOR
ME, TOO.



VERY
FUNNY.

LOOK,
I MADE TIME
TO COME DOWN
HERE, BUT IT
DOESN'T MEAN
I GOT TIME
TO WASTE.









I'LL
ANSWER
YOUR
QUESTIONS
WHEN I
DAMN WELL
PLEASE.

SO WHICH
OF US HAS THE
UPPER HAND?



YEAH,
YEAH,
YEAH.

FIRST,
SOME
COFFEE.



YOU
WANNA
KNOW?



BY THE
WAY...

...IF YOU
CAN'T USE
YOUR HANDS,
HOW'D YOU
CHECK THE
MESSAGE
I SENT?



ONE
"YEAH" IS
ENOUGH.

GOD
KNOWS I
COULD GO
FOR A MILK
CREPE.





IT'S
SHIROU.

SHIROU
SHIBA.
WHAT'S
YOURS?



THAT'S
ENOUGH
WITH THE
PHONE.

YUP.

LET'S TALK
LIKE NORMAL
PEOPLE NOW.



CHAPPA?

THAT'S
A NICK-
NAME,
RIGHT?



FINE. WHAT
ABOUT
"GIPS"?

YOU'RE
PRETTY SHARP,
AIN'T YA?
"GIPS" WORKS,
I GUESS.

OKAY.
"MUCHIU-
CHI"?

DON'T
THINK
SO.



'TILL
YESTERDAY,
I WENT BY
THE NAME
CHAPPA.

WHY
DON'T YOU
GIVE ME A
NEW NAME?



THE
BANDAGES
ON MY NOSE
MAKE IT HARD
TO EAT. PEEL
THEM OFF,
WILL YOU?

ALL RIGHT
THEN, GIPS.
EAT UP YOUR
BREAKFAST
BEFORE IT
GETS COLD.



THIS GUY
SURE IS A
WACK JOB.

WHAT KIND
OF SICK SHIT
IS HE INTO?



YOU
REALLY
WANNA
KNOW?



IT WAS
PAINFULLY
OBVIOUS.

YOU WERE
WONDERING
ABOUT ME JUST
NOW--WHAT
I'M INTO.

FORGET
IT.



How did
you--?!





CHAPPA,
ARE YOU
GETTING
THAT
FEELING?

THAT
FEELING OF
EXCITEMENT
THAT SETS
YOUR BLOOD
ON FIRE.



HELL,
YEAH!

THERE WAS
A TIME WHEN
THE VITALITY OF
YOUTH BLAZED
AT THE CORE
OF MY BEING.



SO
THINGS
WERE
RIGHT
BEFORE?

WERE
THINGS
EVER
RIGHT?

WELL,
WERE
THINGS
EVER
GOOD?



AND
I FEEL
LIKE SHIT
HALF THE
TIME.

THE
WHOLE
WORLD
STINKS
NOWADAYS.

THINGS
JUST AIN'T
RIGHT.



I'D HAVE THE
WILDEST NIGHTS
AT THE MOST
LAVISH PARTIES
AT THE BEST
CLUBS.

THE TIMES I
HAD. THE NIGHTS
I SPENT.



IT'S
DIFFERENT
NOW.

DON'T
YOU DO
WILD THINGS
LIKE THAT
ANYMORE?



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

THAT'S
YOUR
PHONE.



YEAH?



I CAN'T
EVEN
DRINK AN
OUNCE...

...OF WHAT I
ONCE USED TO.
THE SAKE GAVE
ME ULCERS.



BOSS!
EVERYTHING
EXCREMENTAL
HAS HIT THE FAN
HERE! THESE GUYS
ARE PLAYIN'
HARDBALL

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



THIS
PLACE IS
DISGUSTIN'.

IT
STINKY
IN HERE
YO!



WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
"WHAT
SHOULD I
DO"?!

YOUR
JOB IS TO
GO IN AND
COLLECT...
~~IF ANY~~
MEANS
NECESSARY!



WHEN DID
IT BECOME
SUCH A PAIN
IN THE ASS TO
COLLECT A
PALTRY MILLION
HERE AND
THERE?

JEEZ.



THREATEN
WHOMEVER
YOU HAVE
TO.

KEEP IT UP
WITHIN AN INCH
OF THEIR LIFE!

...THEY'RE
LAZY, WEAK
AND CAN'T
HACK THE
WORK.

A LOT OF
SWEAT AND BLOOD
GOES INTO THIS
BUSINESS TO GET
ANY RESULTS.


AND ALL I
GOTTA SAY ABOUT
THE "YOUNG GUNS"
THESE DAYS IS...



CAN'T
SAY IT'S
PRETTY.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK OF
THE SCENERY?





...I OWNED IT ALL
AND SOLD IT TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER.

BEFORE
THIS BLOCK
BECAME A
VACANT
LOT...

BACK THEN,
THIS TOWN WAS
FILTHY, BUT SO
MUCH ENERGY
POURED INTO
THESE
STREETS!

THEN HE
WENT BROKE
AND VACATED
NOW IT'S JUST
WEED AND
ASPHALT



MY ONLY
CONSOLATION...

...IS HAVIN'
YOU AROUND
CHAPPA



SEEMS
THAT MY
LIFE AND
MIND...

...HAVE GONE
THE WAY OF
THIS LOT.



YOU SOUND
LIKE A MAN
REGRETTING
HIS LIFE.



I WOULDN'T
GO SO FAR AS
TO SAY THAT.



THAT'S RIGHT.
MY OBJECTIVE'S
ALWAYS BEEN
MONEY. I GOT
NO REGRETS.

ALL THE
BLOOD SPILLED
TURNS TO
MONEY, RIGHT?



WHAT'S
YOUR
OBJECTIVE?



I'M LOOKING
FOR THIS GIRL.



IN THAT
CASE, I
ENVY YOU.



NO
WAY.



WHY
SHOULD I BE
EMBARRASSED
SAYIN' WHAT
I REALLY
BELIEVE?



AREN'T YOU
EMBARRASSED
TALKING LIKE
THAT?



I'M IN
LOVE WITH
THIS GIRL.



WHO
ISN'T?

NO
PROMISES.
NO POSSI-
BILITIES..

MY LIFE
WAS NOTHIN'.

EVERY DAY
WOULD DRAG ALONG
THEN I'D WAKE UP
ONE MORNING AND
REALIZE A WHOLE YEAR
HAD PASSED ME BY.

?

I ONLY KNEW
LUCY FOR TWO
DAYS, BUT THAT
WAS ENOUGH.

SHE'S
EVERYTHING
TO ME.





HAVE YOU
FIXED IT
SO IT'S RULED
A SUICIDE?
THAT WAY YOU
EXTORT THE
INSURANCE.

NOT A
BAD IDEA

WEAK-
NESS...

...IS
A SIN.

I FEEL
NOTHING

LOOK
GRUE
SOME
TO YOU?
HOW DO
YOU FEEL
WHEN YOU
SEE
DEATH?



LET'S
GET
OUTTA
HERE.

YOU EAT
A LOT FOR
A LITTLE GUY,
DON'T YA?



CARRY MY BAG,
WILL YOU?



THAT'S
A SECRET.



THIS
WEIGHS
A TON!

WHAT'S
IN IT?

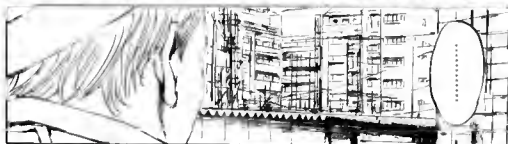


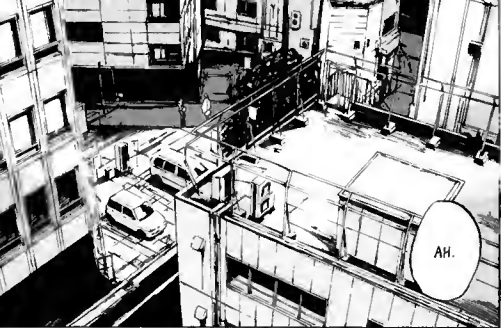
YANK













GET IN,
YO!

BOSS-MAN'S
WAITING



SHOW A
CRIPPLE
SOME
MERCY.

OWOWOW!
OKAY. YOU'VE MADE
YOUR POINT!
I'LL GET IN.



GRAB



SCREW
YOU.





WE GONNA
SHOW YOU WHAT
WE DO WITH PUNKS
WHO MESS WITH
THE BOSS.

I CAN'T TAKE
ANY MORE OF YOUR
SHIT, CHAPPA.



WHAT?



I'VE
GOT AN ICE
CREAM CONE
WAITING
FOR ME.



BECAUSE
IF YOU
DON'T...

...I'D LIKE
TO FINISH
THIS CONVER-
SATION.



YOU GOT
ANYTHING ELSE
TO SAY?

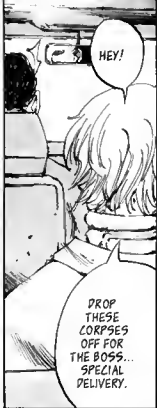
HUH?







AND THEN
TAKE ME BACK
TO WHERE YOU
PICKED ME UP.



HEY!

DROP
THESE
CORPSES
OFF FOR
THE BOSS...
SPECIAL
DELIVERY.



WHILE
YOU'RE AT
IT, WRAP MY
BANDAGES
BACK UP.

AND PRAY
THAT MY ICE
CREAM HASN'T
MELTED YET.



SORRY FOR
MAKING YOU
WAIT!



DEAD END





#Manga-Sketchbook@hchighway

<http://manga-sketchbook.org>



SHIT! MY
HANDS ARE ALL
STICKY THANKS
TO THOSE ICE
CREAM CONES.

SO
THAT'S WHERE
WE'RE MEETING
YOUR NEXT
"ACQUAINTANCE
FROM THE
PAST"?



I CAN'T
WAIT TO
FIND OUT
WHAT KINDA
LUNATIC
THIS DUDE
IS.

THE DUDE
DOESN'T CARRY
A PHONE, SO WE
GOTTA MEET HIM
IN PERSON.



"MAN
FROM THE
BOWELS
OF THE
EARTH"?



I DON'T
KNOW.
A BIT OF
BOTH, I
GUESS.

HEY, GIPS.
WHAT DO
YOU CALL
THIS?
FILTH OR
SKIN?

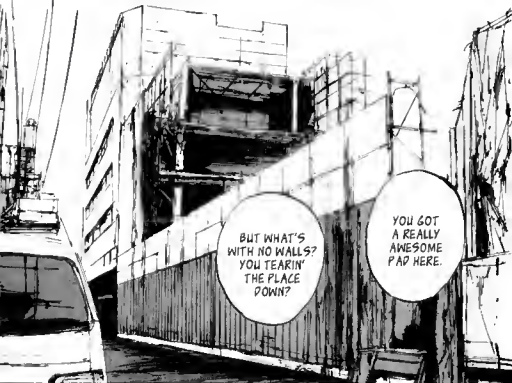
FUNNY
THAT THE
HAT-WEARING
"MAN FROM THE
BOWELS OF
THE EARTH"
HAD A CELL-
PHONE, THOUGH.





PART 4 THE SECOND MAN





BUT WHAT'S
WITH NO WALLS?
YOU TEARIN'
THE PLACE
DOWN?

YOU GOT
A REALLY
AWESOME
PAD HERE.



...TRUST ME
WE'RE OLD
FRIENDS

I KNOW
IT LOOKS
LIKE WE
JUST MET,
BUT...



YOU
COME HERE
TO SELL
A FIGHT?



YOU
LOOKIN'
FOR AN
ASS-
KICKIN'?

OW!



SAY
WHAT?

A FIGHT?
NO WAY!





THAT'S WHY
YOU GOTTA FEED
PEOPLE CONSTANT
ENTERTAINMENT.

A LIFE
WITHOUT AN
OBJECTIVE IS
A DULL LIFE
INDEED.



ENTERTAINMENT
LIKE THIS
BLOODSPORT...

ENTER-
TAINMENT
DISTRACTS THE
DULL LIFE FROM
REALIZING
ITS OWN
EMPTINESS.



YOUR MISTAKE
IS THAT YOU
TAKE CRUELTY
AND SADISM
SO SERIOUSLY.

PEOPLE HAVE
ALWAYS LOVED
BLOODSPORT.
WATCHING
SLAVES KILL
EACH OTHER WAS
A RECREATION IN
ROMAN TIMES,
REMEMBER?



...CAN SURE
TURN A DULL
MIND INTO A
SICK ONE

HE'S
GOUGING
HIS EYES
OUT.

T
W
I
S
T



IT
SICKENS
ME,
THOUGH.

...TO SEE
A BUNCH
OF OLD FARTS
JUMPIN' UP
AND DOWN LIKE
CHILDREN!

COMBAT
SPORTS ARE
THE ULTIMATE
ENTERTAINMENT.
THEY'RE FIGHTS
TO THE DEATH!

WHEN LIFE
IS AT STAKE,
THAT'S WHAT
I CALL ENTER-
TAINMENT!



IF THESE
OLD FARTS
QUIT THEIR
PAY JOBS,
THEY'D TURN
SOCIETY INTO
A RIOT ZONE
BEFORE YOU
CAN BLINK!

I SAY THAT'S
RIGHT ON.

SCHOLARS AND
SCIENTISTS SAY
THAT IF WE YIELD
POLITICAL POWER
TO "CHILDREN,"
THEY'LL DESTROY
THE WORLD IN
NO TIME.



THE
WEAKENING
OF THE WILL
TO LIVE...

DIRECTLY
RELATES
TO THE
OUTCOME
OF EACH
MATCH.



...BETWEEN
THEM AND
DEATH IS THIS
BLOODSPORT
YOU HATE
SO MUCH.

FOR THE
DULL-MINDED
WHO CAN NO
LONGER FIND
PLEASURE IN
FOOD AND SEX,
ALL THEY
GOT...

IT GOES
BACK
TO WHAT
YOU WERE
SAYIN'. EH,
CHAPPA?





HE'S THAT
FIGHTER WE
SAW IN THE
RING!

AFTER A
SPOT OF TEA,
LET'S TRACK
HIM DOWN!

I THINK I
KNOW WHERE
HE'S HEADED.

IT'S
TEATIME?!
NOW?!



FIRST, WE'LL
NEED TO GET
PAST THEM.

YOU'LL
KNOW
WHEN
YOU GET
THERE.

LUCKY THE
BOSS AND HIS
GOONS AREN'T
AROUND.



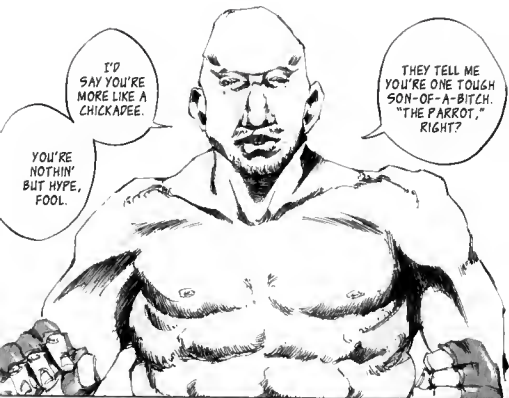
JUST
WHO IS
THIS
GUY?

THEY WORK
THE DOORS
FOR THE
FIGHT CLUB.

MAN,
THOSE DUDES
SCARE THE
PISS OUTTA
ME. WHERE
WE GOIN'?

The
what?









YOU
DON'T
LET UP,
DO YA?

HI. WE
CAME TO
CONTINUE
OUR LITTLE
CHAT.

WHAT THE--!
YOU TWO AGAIN?



GUESS
NOT.



...TODAY'S
EVENTS
HAVE BEEN
CALLED
OFF.

...BECAUSE
ALL FIGHTERS
WHO WERE
SCHEDULED FOR
TODAY HAVE
CANCELLED...

WE REGRET
TO INFORM
YOU, BUT...



THESE
GEEZERS
KNOW
WHAT
THEY
WANT!

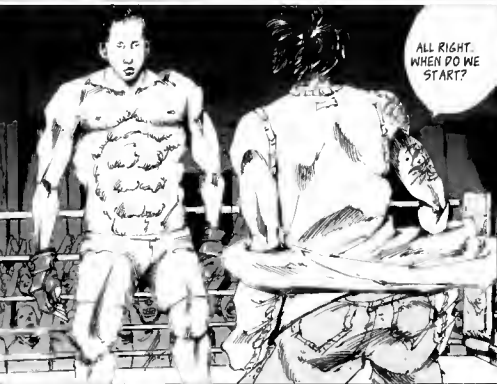
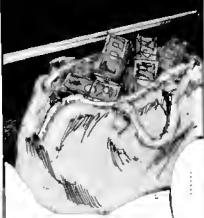


WE
WANT
TO SEE
SOME
FIGHTS!

YOU
GOTTA
BE
KID-
DIN'!





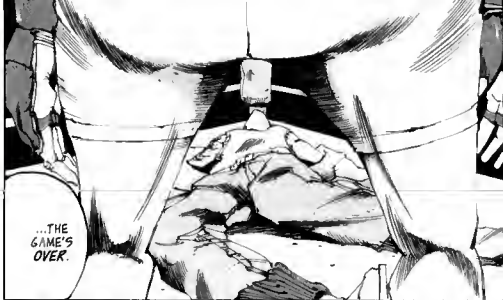






AND
BEFORE
IT BARELY
BEGAN...

FOOL!
THE GAME'S
ALREADY
ON!



...THE
GAME'S
OVER.



NOT
YET.





FINE,
THEN.



READY
TO DIE,
PUNK?

HOW'S
THIS
FOR AN
ENDING?

HE'S SERIOUS.
IT'S SAD HOW
OUTMATCHED
SHIROU IS
AGAINST
THAT FIGHTING
MACHINE!

MAYBE
I SHOULD
GRAB MY
MONEY
AND RUN

AH.



YOUR HEART IS...



YOU DON'T
HAVE A
SHRED OF
FEELING,
DO YOU?



...MADE
OF STONE.



PARROT!
HERE'S
YOUR
SHARE!

WITHOUT
ME, YOU'D
BE JUST
A BUM
ON THE
STREET!

YOU
SULKING
AGAIN?
TAKE
WHAT I'M
OFFERIN'
YOU.



DO YOU
CARE ABOUT
ANYTHING?

IS IT JUST
YOU IN THIS
WORLD AND
THAT LITTLE
BIRD?



IT'S ALL
YOUR
FAULT!

SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

I'M SO
STRESSED
OUT, AND IT'S
ALL YOUR
FAULT!



TWEET



...FOR ALL YOUR
PROBLEMS...

DON'T
BLAME ME...

I'VE HAD IT!

GO TO HELL!

ALL I GET
AROUND HERE
IS PISSING AND
WHINING.

PEOPLE ARE
SUCH GODDAMN
WEAKLINGS!

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF YOUR
WHINING.



HEE!



AHA
HA HA
BWAH!

AND IT'S
YOUR
FAULT,
TOO,
STUPID
BIRD!

IT'S
ALL YOUR
FAULT.



...DON'T
KILL THE
BIRD

PLEASE...



...IS A
DULL LIFE
INDEED.

A LIFE
WITHOUT AN
OBJECTIVE...



MY AMBITION
TO BECOME THE
GREATEST FIGHTER
NO LONGER
SUSTAINS ME

WHEN MY
WOMAN LEFT
ME, I WAS
ALONE
AGAIN.

I HEARD THAT
ONE BEFORE. A
LIFE WITHOUT AN
OBJECTIVE SURE
IS DULL.



HOW ARE
YOU STILL
STANDING?



YOU OUGHTA
BE BRAIN-DEAD
BY NOW.

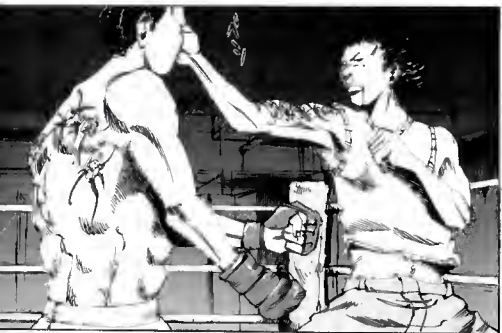


...THAT
I DON'T?

WHAT
DO YOU
HAVE...









THIS IS IT.



WHAT BURNS
INSIDE HIM?

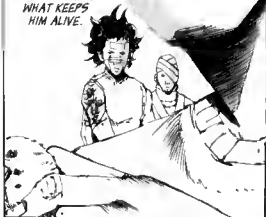
WHAT
KEPT HIM
GOING?







ALL THAT
MATTERS TO HIM
IS ONE LITTLE
PARAKEET. IT'S
WHAT KEEPS
HIM ALIVE.



IS THAT
ALL THERE
IS TO IT?



...I WANT
TO FORGET
THEM ALL.

AS FOR
MY OWN BAD
MEMORIES...



THIS LITTLE GUY,
TOO, WILL FORGET
ME IN THE SPAN OF
THREE STEPS.



HAVE
A GOOD
ONE,
BIRDY.

THEY SAY
THAT, AFTER
THREE STEPS,
A CHICKEN HAS
NO MEMORY
OF WHERE IT
STARTED.





CLICK

OUR COUNTRY'S
COLD WINTERS
DON'T AGREE WITH
HIM TOO WELL

THAT
LITTLE GUY
WAS BROUGHT
HERE FROM
THE TROPICS

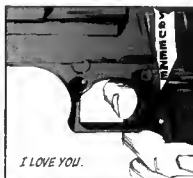
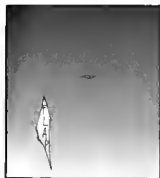
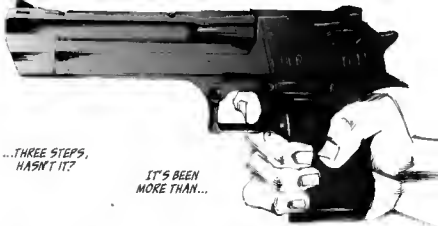
...IT'S BETTER,
I SAY, TO JUST
KILL THEM AND
BEAR THE GUILT
OF MURDER.



IF ALL
THE GOOD
CREATURES IN
THIS WORLD
ARE KICKED
ASIDE AND
LEFT TO
DIE...

...THREE STEPS,
HASNT IT?

IT'S BEEN
MORE THAN...





IT'S UP
TO YOU,
BRO



WHAT
THE
--?

SAY, YOU
MIND IF I
TAKE HIM
ALONG
WITH US?



YOU'VE GOT
QUITE AN
UNBELIEVABLE
PAD HERE.
HOW'D YOU
SCORE THIS
PLACE?

TO TELL
YOU THE TRUTH,
I DON'T HAVE
THE SLIGHTEST
MEMORY OF MY
LIFE BEFORE
I WAS A
FIGHTER.



I WAS...

...PARALYZED
WITH FEAR.



I DO
KNOW THAT
A MONSTER
SHOWED UP
HERE YESTER-
DAY AND
TORE MY PAD
APART!

A
MONSTER?
WHAT
KIND OF
MONSTER?



THERE
WAS THIS
SCAR ACROSS
HIS HEAD.



IT AIN'T
NORMAL AT
ALL, YO.

THIS AIN'T
NORMAL.



HE'S THE PHOTOGRAPHER AT THE FIGHT CLUB.

YOU DON'T KNOW KYAPA, AND YOU CLAIM TO HAVE CONNECTIONS IN THIS BUSINESS?



KYAPA? WHO DAT?

IT'S LIKE KYAPA SAID.



FOR REAL?

BUT, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THIS STRANGE BUSINESS.



THIS TOO MUCH FOR YOU?

I DON'T LIKE 'EM TWITCHIN' LIKE THAT.



HE SAID THAT?

WHATEVER, MAN, I COULD NEVER GET USED TO A SIGHT LIKE THIS.

HE SAID WHEN YOU'RE MAKING A LIVING IN THE ARENA OF DEATH, THE SIGHT OF KILLING IS AS ROUTINE AS ANYTHING ELSE.





D
E
A
D
E
N
D
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F
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N

Meanwhile, the monstrous mite known only as Stitch Head ruthlessly pursues Shirou. Possessing superhuman strength and telepathic abilities, Stitch Head leaves a nauseating trail of blood and gore in his wake...



AVAILABLE JUNE 2005

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF DEAD END



Driven by his desire to be reunited with Lucy, Shirou continues to track down "acquaintances from the past," including Mr. Q--a gruff self-proclaimed detective, whose foul-mouthed exterior masks a lonely soul... But it looks like his "friendship" doesn't come cheap.